DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Memorandum of Conversation

CONFIDENTIAL TELEPHONE

DATE: July 2, 1954
6:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Situation
Inter-American Peace Committee

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Paul C. Daniels, Mexico City
Assistant Secretary Henry F. Holland

COPIES TO: The Secretary
General Smith
Mr. Murphy

2/9/82

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Mr. Holland said he was still very anxious for the Inter-American Peace Committee to go on to Guatemala and complete the tour. He said that we had had some problems at that end as Amb. Daniels knew. Also that early this morning the two groups signed an agreement. Amb. Daniels said they received this information from the Mexican Foreign Office. Mr. Holland reported that they all planned to go on to Guatemala from San Salvador at noon but that Castillo Armas took off in his plane this morning and said he would get back this afternoon, but so far has not shown up. Every effort has been made to find him and no one has been able to. Mr. Holland said that he assumed he will be back and saw no reason why he shouldn't. Mr. Holland said assuming that Castillo Armas goes on to Guatemala, certainly by tomorrow, then it should be reasonable to assume that the invitation to the IAPC would be forthcoming.

Mr. Holland said that yesterday he suggested that the plane be sent back because of the expense involved in keeping it there. If it comes back here then the Embassy plane plus commercial service could be used, with the Embassy plane getting the more important members of the group down there and the rest could go commercial on Monday.

Amb. Daniels said that he had another idea for Mr. Holland to consider. They had had two telegrams within the last few hours, one from Cruz Salazar on behalf of the Junta, which he read in Spanish, which said that the time was not right for a visit to Guatemala.

Amb. Daniels said that meant they were bogged down again and that has created an unfavorable impression among members of the Committee who feel they have hung around too long. It has been brought out in their

meetings,

meetings, Amb. Daniels said, that there are many advantages from getting statements from the governments that there is no controversy between the three of them. That the Committee would give it out to the press that they are returning home. Amb. Daniels added that if we oppose this it would prejudice our relations with other countries represented on the Committee.

Amb. Daniels said the members of the Committee think that if satisfactory messages from the three countries praising the Peace Committee and its good offices and stating that at present there is no existing controversy, the Committee might gracefully make a public announcement and return to Washington.

Amb. Daniels recommended that that line be followed at this point if we can get satisfactory messages from those three countries.

Amb. Daniels said he hoped the plane would stay another 48 hours while this is pending. Mr. Holland said he would regret their not going but certainly would not want him to be a holdout against the other four members of the Committee. Amb. Daniels said that the going was a little uphill this morning at their meeting. Mr. Holland said that if they are anxious to get home, they might just come home right now and messages with regard to withdrawal of complaints can be received here as well as there. Amb. Daniels said it would be much more graceful if messages were received in Mexico. He added that messages should be sent to Amb. Luis Quintanilla as head of the Committee at the Hotel Prado. Amb. Daniels said he had discussed it with various people and knows it is the consensus. He said they were having another meeting at six o'clock. Amb. Daniels added that they would want to do something and the Committee might want to take some initiative along this line. Mr. Holland suggested telephoning the Foreign Ministers in Nicaragua and Honduras. Amb. Daniels said he would agree with the others if Mr. Holland agreed with the general line he had outlined. Mr. Holland said he did. Amb. Daniels said he thought Amb. Quintanilla would do it but did not know about telephoning. Mr. Holland told him to see what he could work out along that line, and Amb. Daniels said he would telephone tonight after their meeting.

MK:vk